

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/029,543

Examiner

PHUC H. TRAN

Applicant(s)

SHARMA ET AL

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/21/01.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 6/11/02

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

DANG TON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION**

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. Claims 1-14 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
  - With respect to claim 1-14, the prior art fails to teach a method of reducing flooding from a network device, comprising: maintaining an unknown address and a count at a first port of the network device, the unknown address being a network address for which there is no information at the first port identifying another port of the network device to which unicast frames containing the unknown address are to be forwarded, the count identifying the number of times frames containing the unknown address have been flooded from the first port to other ports of the network device; upon receiving unicast frames containing the unknown address at the first port while the count is less than a predetermined threshold, incrementing the count and flooding the received frames to the other ports of the network device; when the count has reached the predetermined threshold, determining whether there is information at a second one of the other ports of the network device identifying a specific one of the ports of the network device to which unicast frames containing the unknown address are to be forwarded, and if so then transferring the information from the second port to the first port, whereupon the unknown address becomes known at the first port; and upon receiving unicast frames containing the now known address at the first port, forwarding the received frames to only the specific port identified in the information transferred from such other port to the first port.
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Momirov (U.S. Patent No. 6216167 B1) discloses efficient path based forwarding and multicast forwarding.
- Brunner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5982775) discloses forwarding multicast frames on an Ethernet bridge.
- Lyles (U.S. Patent No. 5325356) discloses method for aggregating ports on an ATM switch for the purpose of trunk grouping.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUC H. TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3172. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RAO SEEMA can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2666

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phuc Tran  
Assistant Examiner  
Art Unit 2664

P.t  
7/22/05



DANG TON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER